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Enhanced Surveillance for Influenza and Guillain Barré Syndrome December 31, 2009

Influenza

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 reporting

In accordance with Title 17, California Code of Regulations (CCR) §2500 and §2502, pandemic (H1N1) 2009 is considered reportable as an occurrence of unusual disease.

Healthcare providers are asked to report hospitalizations, intensive care unit (ICU) and fatal cases of probable/confirmed pandemic (H1N1) 2009 as follows:

- Weekly aggregated data for all hospitalizations (including ICU) and fatal cases of probable/confirmed pandemic (H1N1) 2009 within provided age groups
- Individual case reports for ICU and fatal cases of probable/confirmed pandemic (H1N1) 2009

Reporting of hospitalized, ICU and fatal cases of seasonal influenza

In order to monitor pandemic (H1N1) 2009 activity in relation to seasonal influenza, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has requested that local health departments also report all other laboratory-confirmed influenza as follows:

- In addition to aggregated data for pandemic (H1N1) 2009, weekly aggregated data for all hospitalizations (including ICU) and fatal cases of any laboratory-confirmed influenza, including pandemic (H1N1) 2009, within the designated age categories.
- Individual case reports for ICU and fatal cases of any laboratory-confirmed influenza

This includes ICU and fatal cases with specimens meeting the following criteria:

- Influenza A only by any laboratory method (e.g., rapid test, culture, PCR, etc.), with no further subtyping or testing done; or
- Influenza A-positive specimens subtyped as human seasonal H1 or H3; or
- Influenza B-positive specimens.

These cases are to be reported on the Severe Influenza Case History Form, which is attached.

Cases that are influenza A-positive only, with no additional subtyping or testing done, should be reported on the form as “Influenza A – subtype not identified.” Influenza A-positive specimens that have been subtyped as seasonal human H1 or H3, or influenza B-positive specimens, should be reported as such.

Case definition for Severe Pediatric Influenza

The case definition for severe pediatric influenza is as follows: Age 0-17 years; a clinical syndrome consistent with influenza or complications of influenza; confirmation by laboratory testing; and have been hospitalized in the ICU or died (with no period of complete recovery between the illness and death).

Guillain Barré Syndrome (GBS)

Surveillance of post-licensure H1N1 influenza vaccine safety monitoring, is being conducted by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

Testing Procedures

- CDPH will be testing for infectious triggers of GBS.
- To request testing for any suspected cases of GBS complete the lab submittal form and (**for this special project only**) send it along with the appropriate specimens to CDPH Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (address is listed on the lab form).
- The Surveillance Case Report form should also be completed and faxed or mailed to the Guillain-Barré Syndrome Project (fax number and address are listed on the bottom of the case report form)

Please contact Disease Control at (951) 358-5107 if you have any questions on these enhanced surveillance reporting requirements.